Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A data processing system in a client and server system, the server providing the client with an instruction data set in a specified instruction format in response to a content data request from the client, the system comprising:

a server computer system comprising:

a memory including a server program that provides one or more content data request properties of the content data request made by the client, that prepares the instruction data set having the specified instruction format and including a plurality of instruction element data sets each representing a specified instruction element of the instruction format and generated by at least one instruction element generating application in an instruction format set up sequence, that includes an instruction format configuration file containing a tree data structure including a plurality of instruction format nodes, each of the instruction format nodes indicating a particular combination of instruction elements having the specified instruction format and having associated with it a node selection criterion, that searches said tree data structure with said determined content data request properties and selects an instruction format node whose associated node selection condition matches said determined content data request properties, and that prepares the instruction data set to be sent to the client by executing the instruction element generating application of the selected instruction format node and inserting content data in places indicated by the instruction element generating application of the selected instruction format node; and

a processor that runs said server program.

2. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said server program analyzes said content data request to provide one or more of client unit related properties and content data related properties.

3. (original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said server program provides for each client as said client unit related properties, device properties about the client, provides as said content data related properties, resource properties about data content resources providing the content data; provides as said client unit related properties, properties about the content data

requesting unit used at the client; and provides as said client unit related properties, properties about commands issued at the client.

4. (original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said memory includes a first property storage area for client unit related properties and a second storage area for content data related properties.

5. (original) The system according to claim 4, wherein said server program analyzes a first content data request to obtain said client unit related properties and said content data related properties, wherein at an arrival of any subsequent content data request in a same session said server program only accesses one of said first storage area and said second storage area to provide said at least one of client unit related properties and said content data related properties.

6. (original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said node selection condition comprises at least one node selection requirement including at least one property name parameter and an expected property;

wherein said search is started at a root instruction format node;

wherein a property relating to said property name parameter of said node selection condition of a next instruction format node is requested to be provided for the current data request; and

wherein when said provided property matches with said expected property, said instruction format selection branches to said next instruction format node.

7. (original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said node selection requirement further comprises a property type parameter indicating a type of property provided.

8. (original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said node selection condition further comprises at least one operation condition for logically combining results of at least two requirements.

9. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said instruction format formed by instruction elements of a root instruction format node of said tree data structure is a default instruction format.

10. (original) The system according to claim 9, wherein said default instruction format is an instruction format with an instruction template and a plurality of instruction element positions into which the instruction element generating applications insert instruction element data sets when they are executed.

11. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said instruction format includes an instruction template and a plurality of instruction element positions into which said instruction element generating applications insert instruction element data sets when they are executed.

12. (original) The system unit according to claim 1, wherein said instruction element generating application includes a component name of a component to be executed.

13. (original) The system according to claim 12, wherein said instruction element generating application further includes an argument name with a substitution name of a substitution component located at a different node.

14. (original) The system according to claim 11, wherein said instruction data set is a set of instruction data for displaying a screen with a particular screen layout format on the client, wherein said instruction template is a screen layout template and said instruction element positions are place holders into which said insert screen element data sets are inserted by said instruction element generating application when said instruction element generating application is executed.

15. (original) The system according to claim 11, wherein said instruction data set is a set of instruction data for controlling a device with a specified control command layout format on the client, wherein said instruction template is a command layout template and said instruction element positions are command holders into which said instruction element generating application inserts command data sets when said instruction element generating application is executed.

16. (currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the client and the server program are JAVA based applications, and wherein said instruction format configuration file containing said tree data structure is an XML file.

17. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said instruction element generating application is one of a JAVA servlet and a JAVA server pages program.

18. (currently amended) A method in a data processing system for providing in a client and server system, at least one client by a server with an instruction data set in a specified instruction format in response to a content data request, comprising the steps of:

providing at least one content data request properties of a content data request made by [[the]] a client computer system;

preparing the instruction data set having the specified instruction format at a server computer system [[and]], wherein the instruction data set comprises ~~including~~ a plurality of instruction element data sets each representing a specified instruction element of the specified instruction format;

searching a tree data structure stored in an instruction format configuration file at a server computer system [[and]] ~~including~~ the tree data structure comprising a plurality of instruction format nodes, each instruction format node indicating a specified combination of instruction elements including the specified instruction format and having associated with it a node selection criterion, with said determined content data request properties and for selecting an instruction format node whose associated node selection condition matches said determined content data request properties; and

preparing the instruction data set to be sent to the client computer system by executing instruction element generating applications of the selected instruction format node and inserting content data in places indicated by the instruction element generating application of the selected instruction format node.

19. (original) The method according to claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

analyzing a first content data request to obtain and store properties in a memory and, at an arrival of a subsequent content data request in a same session, accessing said memory for providing said properties.

20. (original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said node selection condition comprises at least one node selection requirement including at least one property name parameter and an expected property; and further comprising the steps of:

starting a search at a root instruction format node;

requesting from a current content data request a property relating to said property name parameter of a node selection condition of a next instruction format node; and

branching to said next instruction format node if said provided property matches with said expected property.

21. (currently amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions that cause a data processing system to perform a method of providing in a client and server system, at least one client by a server with an instruction data set in a specified instruction format in response to a content data request, the method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one content data request properties of a content data request made by [[the]] a client computer system;

preparing the instruction data set having the specified instruction format at a server computer system ~~and including~~ , wherein the instruction data set comprises a plurality of instruction element data sets each representing a specified instruction element of the specified instruction format;

searching a tree data structure stored in an instruction format configuration file at the server computer system ~~and including~~ , wherein the tree data structure comprises a plurality of instruction format nodes, each instruction format node indicating a specified combination of instruction elements including the specified instruction format and having associated with it a node selection criterion, with said determined content data request properties and for selecting an instruction format node whose associated node selection condition matches said determined content data request properties; and

preparing the instruction data set to be sent to the client computer system by executing instruction element generating applications of the selected instruction format node and inserting content data in places indicated by the instruction element generating application of the selected instruction format node.

22. (original) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of analyzing said content data request to provide said at least one client unit related properties and content data related properties.

23. (original) The method according to claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

providing for each client as said client unit related properties device properties about the client;

providing as said content data related properties, resource properties about data content resources providing the content data;

providing as said client unit related properties, properties about the content data requesting unit used at the client; and

providing as said client unit related properties, properties about commands issued at the client.

24. (original) The method according to claim 22, wherein a memory is provided which includes a first property storage area for said client unit related properties and a second storage area for said content data related properties.

25. (original) The method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of analyzing a first content data request to obtain said client unit related properties and said content data related properties, wherein at an arrival of any subsequent content data request in a same session, one of said first storage area and said second storage area is accessed to provide said at least one of client unit related properties and said content data related properties.

26. (original) The method according to claim 22, wherein said node selection condition comprises at least one node selection requirement including at least one property name parameter and an expected property;

wherein said search is started at a root instruction format node;

wherein a property relating to said property name parameter of said node selection condition of a next instruction format node is requested to be provided for the current data request; and

wherein when said provided property matches with said expected property, said instruction format selection branches to said next instruction format node.

27. (original) The method according to claim 26, wherein said node selection requirement further comprises a property type parameter indicating a type of property provided.

28. (original) The method according to claim 26, wherein said node selection condition further comprises at least one operation condition for logically combining results of at least two requirements.

29. (original) The method according to claim 21, wherein said instruction format formed by instruction elements of a root instruction format node of said tree data structure is a default instruction format.

30. (original) The method according to claim 29, wherein said default instruction format is an instruction format with an instruction template and a plurality of instruction element positions into which the instruction element generating applications insert instruction element data sets when they are executed.

31. (original) The method according to claim 21, wherein said instruction format includes an instruction template and a plurality of instruction element positions into which said instruction element generating applications insert instruction element data sets when they are executed.

32. (original) The method according to claim 21, wherein said instruction element generating application includes a component name of a component to be executed.

33. (original) The method according to claim 32, wherein said instruction element generating applications further include an argument name with a substitution name of a substitution component located at a different node.

34. (original) The method according to claim 31, wherein said instruction data set is a set of instruction data for displaying a screen with a particular screen layout format on the client, wherein said instruction template is a screen layout template and said instruction element positions are place holders into which said insert screen element data sets are inserted by said instruction element generating applications when said instruction element generating applications are executed.

35. (original) The method according to claim 31, wherein said instruction data set is a set of instruction data for controlling a device with a specified control command layout format on the client, wherein said instruction template is a command layout template and said instruction element positions are command holders into which said instruction element generating applications insert command data sets when said instruction element generating applications are executed.

36. (original) The method according to claim 31, wherein the client and the server are JAVA based applications, and wherein said instruction format configuration file containing said tree data structure is an XML file.

37. (original) The method according to claim 17, wherein said instruction element generating applications is one of a JAVA servlet and a JAVA server pages program.

38. (currently amended) A computer-readable memory device encoded with a tree data structure having entries which are accessed by a program that provides at least one client by a server in a client and server system, with an instruction data set in a specified instruction format in response to a content data request, wherein the program is encoded in the memory device and is run by a processor, the entries comprising:

a plurality of instruction format nodes, each instruction format node indicating a specified combination of instruction elements including a particular instruction format and having associated with it a node selection criterion and a server computer system executes the program to insert content data in places indicated by an instruction element generating application of at least one instruction format node selected from the plurality of instruction format nodes.

39. (original) The device according to claim 38, wherein the tree data structure is generated separately for each session between the client and the server.

40. (original) The device according to claim 38, wherein said tree data structure is generated once and independently for each session between the client and the server.

41. (original) The device according to claim 38, wherein said tree data structure is generated dependent on at least one of client-related properties and content data properties.

42. (currently amended) A method in a data processing system for providing one or more clients by a server in a client and server system, with an instruction data set in a specified instruction format in response to a content data request, comprising the steps of:

preparing a tree data structure consisting of a plurality of instruction format nodes at a server computer system, each instruction format node indicating a particular combination of instruction elements including a specified instruction format and having associated with it a node selection criterion; ~~and~~

searching said tree data structure with content data request properties relating to the content data request sent by [[the]] a client computer system and for selecting an instruction format node whose associated node selection condition matches said content data request properties; and

inserting content data in places indicated by an instruction element generating application of the selected instruction format node.

43. (currently amended) A method in a data processing system for providing one or more clients by a server in a client and server system, with an instruction data set in a specified instruction format, comprising the steps of:

selecting from a plurality ~~number~~ of instruction format templates a specified instruction format template dependent on at least one of a client computer system property[[ies]] and a resource property[[ies]], wherein said template describes at what places in the instruction data set specified instruction elements can be placed, wherein the selection is performed on a server computer system; and

inserting content data in the places indicated in said instruction format template by at least one instruction element generating application, wherein an instruction data set in accordance with said instruction format is sent to a client computer system;

wherein the selection comprises ~~step also including~~ selecting said at least one instruction element generating application in accordance with one of client capabilities and resource capabilities, from more than one available instruction element generating application.

44. (currently amended) A data processing system in a client and server system, the server providing the client with an instruction data set in a specified instruction format in response to a content data request from the client, the system comprising:

a server computer system comprising:

a memory including a server program that provides one or more content data

request properties of the content data request made by the client, that prepares the instruction data set having the specified instruction format and including a plurality of instruction element data sets each representing a specified instruction element of the instruction format and generated by at least one instruction element generating application in an instruction format set up sequence, that includes an instruction format configuration file containing a tree data structure including a plurality of instruction format nodes, each of the instruction format nodes indicating a particular combination of instruction elements having the specified instruction format and having associated with it a node selection criterion, that searches said tree data structure with said determined content data request properties and selects an instruction format node whose associated node selection condition matches said determined content data request properties, and that prepares the instruction data set to be sent to the client by executing the instruction element generating application of the selected instruction format node and inserting content data in places indicated by the instruction element generating application of the selected instruction format node; and

a processor that runs said server program;

a client computer system comprising:

a memory including a client program that provides a content data request to the server, and that receives the instruction data set sent by the server; and

a processor that runs said client program; and

a network between said server computer and said client computer.

45. (currently amended) An apparatus which provides, in a client and server system, at least one client by a server computer with an instruction data set in a specified instruction format in response to a content data request, comprising:

means for providing at least one content data request properties of a content data request made by [[the]] a client computer system;

means for preparing the instruction data set having the specified instruction format at a server computer system, wherein the instruction data set comprises ~~and including~~ a plurality of instruction element data sets each representing a specified instruction element of the specified instruction format;

means for searching a tree data structure stored in an instruction format configuration file and including a plurality of instruction format nodes, each instruction format node indicating a specified combination of instruction elements including the specified instruction format and having associated with it a node selection criterion, with said determined content data request

properties and for selecting an instruction format node whose associated node selection condition matches said determined content data request properties; and

means for preparing the instruction data set to be sent to the client computer system by executing instruction element generating applications of the selected instruction format node and inserting content data in places indicated by an instruction element generating application of the selected instruction format node.